

FORTUNES IN FURS.

An English Furrier Gives Some Details of High Prices.

Coats of Fur That Cost \$5,000 Altered Every Year to Suit the Latest Fashion—Fine Wardrobe of Fur Worth \$75,000.

Speaking of the \$4,000 fur coat stolen from Lady Warwick, in connection with her description of herself as a "splendid pauper" under the new English tax laws, a furrier says to the Westminster Budget:

"As a matter of fact, \$4,000 for a lady's fur coat is absolutely nothing out of the way in our experience. On the contrary, it is rather a low price for a fur coat of a lady of means and of social position. There are large numbers of such ladies who wear fur coats of about \$1,750 to just over \$5,000, and now and again, not so very rarely, we make a coat up to \$7,500."

"What kind of fur are these coats lined with?"

"There are three kinds of expensive fur—Russian sable, natural black fox and sea otter. But it is not the lining only that makes a coat expensive. The trimming is another very valuable—often the most valuable—part. Take a set of Russian sable tails; that alone costs \$40,000, nor is this surprising, since we pay \$400 for one tiny skin as it comes to us straight from Russia, in an unprepared state."

"Then, what constitutes such a set?"

"Simply a plain front, collar and cuffs, and a deep garniture round the coat. But remember how many tails go to such a set, and remember, also, that this is the most beautiful fur that could possibly be had."

"I suppose a coat like this lasts forever?"

"It does last for many years, unless ladies are careless with it. But if you give them very hard wear and neglect them, it is only natural that they should soon be spoilt."

"But what about changes in fashion? Is the \$5,000 fur coat worn whether it is made fashionable or not?"

"Oh, no; a great number of these coats come back to us every year to be altered according to the latest fashion."

"Are your customers of this class very fastidious and troublesome about these costly garments?"

"No, not in the very least. Of course, there may be exceptions occasionally, but, on the whole, these ladies are far easier to please than many. They have confidence in us; they know that the firm would supply nothing but what was thoroughly good and genuine. It is the people who want an ancient seal-skin jacket altered, or something of that kind, who often prove the most troublesome. They seem to think that we can put the fur back on the animal, and turn it, from being worn and rotten, into new material. We do anything which it is possible to do; but to turn old fur into new is beyond the limitation of even the cleverest furrier."

"To return to the 'splendid pauper's' fur. What constitutes a complete wardrobe of furs?"

"A long coat, a short one, perhaps a third, trimmed with fur, and a muff and cape. Such a wardrobe is worth several thousands, and you would be surprised to know how many ladies have such a wardrobe. They look upon their furs as upon their jewels, it seems. I know one customer of ours whose wardrobe of fur is worth \$75,000, and only the other day we made a coat for \$10,000, and the trimming for the coat of another lady cost \$5,000."

"Then about fur coats for men. It looks as if they were becoming more popular. Is that so?"

"It is, indeed. Even six or seven years ago Englishmen seemed ashamed to wear fur coats, and if you saw a man in such a coat you set him down at once to be either an actor, an artist or a foreigner. That is no longer so, although there are still a good many men who are a little shy about the matter. They want a fur coat, but they don't want it to be recognized as such. So they have a coat lined with fur, but they don't have a fur collar or cuffs. And since we have made it for years a special feature to make fur coats fit, it is quite possible for a man to wear a fur-lined overcoat that looks exactly like an ordinary overcoat."

"The majority of men, however, do not mind it being noticed that they wear fur coats. And why should they? Surely a man who goes out to his club or to dinner at night, in evening dress, which is much thinner than the clothes he wears during the day, requires a fur coat. But men's coats are far less expensive than ladies'. We make them up to \$2,500 or \$3,000, but we also sell good coats, lined with muskrat (which is the best fur for wear), at \$50. That is our cheapest coat. The average price a man pays is from \$250 to \$500, but there again the collar and cuffs form an important part of the value."

Men and Women Patrons.

There is a great difference in men and women in their methods of buying shoes. This, says Shoe and Leather Facts, is the opinion of a retailer who handles footwear for both sexes. The additional time given to suiting the fair sex is by no means lost. If a woman is satisfactorily suited she is apt to be a more valuable and permanent patron than a man. She often talks about her footwear to her friends, whereas a man seldom does.

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Ear. Deafness from catarrh, ringing or roaring noises, thickened drum, inflammation of external ear, purulent discharges from the ear, etc.

Head. Neuralgia, sick, nervous or congestive headache, dullful feeling, loss of memory, dizziness, softening of brain, tumors and scema of scalp.

Throat. Catarrh and syphilitic sore throat, acute and chronic pharyngitis, enlarged tonsils and palate, hoarseness, loss of voice, thick phlegm in throat, which causes hawking.

Lungs. Consumption in first and second stages, hemorrhages, chronic bronchitis, dry and loose cough, pains in chest, difficulty in breathing, hepatizations, asthma, etc.

Heart. Valvular diseases, weak and fatty heart, dropsy and rheumatism of heart, languid circulation, etc.

Stomach. Catarrh and ulceration and acid dyspepsia, indigestion, pain and fullness after eating, heartburn, waterbrash and difficulty of swallowing.

Liver, Spleen. All diseases of the liver, spleen, bowels, (constipation, chronic diarrhoea,) kidney and bladder, all nervous and reflex disorders, rheumatism and all skin diseases, eczema, salt rheum, ring-worm, hip joint diseases, old sores, fever sores, stiff joints, hare lip, spinal irritation, nervous prostration, rupture, piles, fistula, rectal ulcers, which produce pain in small of back.

Sexual Organs. All private diseases, spermatorrhoea, nightly or daily losses, which if neglected produce nervous irritation, loss of memory and ambition, softening of the brain, idiocy, insanity, etc.; syphilis, stricture, inability to hold the urine, impotency or loss of power, sterility, prostatic disease, sandy sediment in urine, or gravel, varicocele, cured by a new surgical operation, hydrocele, all losses or drains, atrophy or shrinking of the organs.

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